IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-31, 37-39, and 44-115 without prejudice.

1.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Original) A cutting device comprising:

a) a pivoting blade connected to the distal end of a flexible shaft; and

b) a locking sleeve surrounding at least part of the flexible shaft;

where the blade pivots from a first, insertion position to a second, cutting position;

where the blade has one or more than one notch;

where the locking sleeve can be advanced distally and retracted proximally;

and where advancement distally causes the locking sleeve to engage with the one or more than one notch, thereby locking the blade into the cutting position, and retraction proximally 20 causes the locking sleeve to disengage from the one or more than one notch, thereby unlocking the blade from the cutting position.

33. (Original) The cutting device of claim 32, further comprising a sheath having a beveled distal end and surrounding at least part of the flexible shaft;

where the flexible shaft can be advanced distally and retracted proximally relative to the sheath; and

where retraction proximally of the flexible shaft causes the blade to disengage

from the locking sleeve and pivot to the insertion position.

34. (Original) The cutting device of claim 32, where the cutting device can be inserted into a material to be cut after accessing the material through a channel comprising a substantially straight proximal section having a long axis and a distal section having a long axis; and where the long axis of the distal section is curved, or where the long axis of the distal section is substantially straight but varies at least about 10° off of the long axis of the proximal section.

35. (Original) The cutting device of claim 32, where the blade has a circumferential cutting edge.

36. (Original) The cutting device of claim 32, further comprising:

a proximal end comprising a motor adapter for connecting the cutting device to a motor drive; and

a distal end, where the blade is attached.

37-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Original) A method of cutting a material comprising:

a) providing the cutting device of claim 32;

b) inserting the cutting device into the material;

c) advancing the locking sleeve distally to engage with the one or more than one notch, thereby locking the blade into the cutting position;

d) actuating the cutting device;

e) deactuating the cutting device;

f) retraction the locking sleeve proximally to disengage from the one or more than one notch, thereby unlocking the blade from the cutting position; and

g) removing the cutting device from the material.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, where inserting the cutting device comprises advancing the cutting device through a channel comprising a substantially straight proximal section having a long axis and a distal section having a long axis; and

where the long axis of the distal section is curved, or where the long axis of the distal section is substantially straight but varies at least about 100 off of the long axis of the proximal section.

42. (Original) The method of claim 40, further comprising advancing and retracting the cutting device withing the material.

43. (Original) The method of claim 40, further comprising inserting a sheath into the channel before inserting the cutting device, and inserting the cutting device through the sheath.

44-115. (Cancelled)